



The Pipeline

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CFC announces Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program appointee

*By Mike Jennings
CFC Office of Communications*

Janet L. Washington, a case manager in the Warren County Family Support office, will be the Cabinet for Families and Children's appointee to the 2003-4 class of the Governor's Minority Management Trainee Program (GMMTP)

Created by executive order in 1995, the two-year program is intended to increase the number of minority managers in state government. Participants are expected to complete a course in management fundamentals, develop and fulfill an action plan, participate in special programs and develop a portfolio that showcases their leadership and management skills.

Executive branch cabinets, constitutional offices and Kentucky State University are eligible to select trainees for the program. CFC Secretary Viola Miller picked Washington as the Cabinet's participant after a panel of interviewers screened eight applicants.

Before she joined the Cabinet for Families and Children in March 2000 as a child support specialist in Christian County, Washington was for nearly 21 years a social services worker for the state of Indiana. She joined Family Support in Logan County in May 2001 and transferred to Warren County in December of that year.

In working with K-TAP, Food Stamp and Medicaid clients, "I work with deadlines and I meet those deadlines," Washington said in her application. "I strive to treat everyone the way I like to be treated."

The other applicants from CFC were: Deirdre Cummings, a Personnel Administrator in the Cabinet's Equal Employment Opportunity Compliance Branch in Frankfort; Laquita Foster, a Family Support Specialist II in Henderson County; Armedrest Frame, a Family Support Specialist II in Fulton County; Kendra Hazelwood, a Disability Adjudicator III in the Department for Disability Determination Services in Frankfort; Latesia Jackson-Morris and Latonya Swope, who are both Social Services Clinicians in Jefferson County; and Tawana Wilson, a Family Support Specialist II in McCracken County.

Mavis McCowan of the EEO Branch, who was the Cabinet's member of the 1999-2000 GMMTP class, oversaw this year's selection process.

Chantel Depp of the Division of Family Support, the Cabinet's member of the 2001-02 class, helped lead a May 5 session that was intended to demonstrate the Cabinet's commitment to the GMMTP's principles. Eleven participants in the GMMTP and 10 members of CFC leadership attended the event, held at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza in Frankfort.



Wellness committee sponsoring kickball games

By Anya Armes Weber
CFC Office of Communications

The Cabinet for Health Services' Employee Worksite Wellness Committee is sponsoring two upcoming employee kickball games, and CFC staff are invited to play along.

The first game will be from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday, June 13. The second game will be from 4:45 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, July 8.

Both games will be played in the grassy area near the walking path behind the CHR building.

E-mail CHS staffer Jennye Grider if you would like to play. All participants will receive rules prior to the game. Employees should wear comfortable clothing and athletic shoes. CHS staff will lead players in stretching exercises before the game.

This game is not competitive, and you do not have to be athletic to play, said Lisa Arvin of CHS' Department for Public Health. CHS staff will lead players in stretching exercises before the game.

Media briefings provide information on Safe Infants Act

By Mike Jennings
CFC Office of Communications

The Cabinet is helping conduct a series of press briefings around the state in an effort to build public awareness of the Safe

Infants Act, which allows parents of newborns to safely and legally abandon their infants.

The first two briefings took place at the University of Kentucky College of Health Sciences in Lexington May 21 and Kosair Children's Hospital in Louisville

May 23. Similar events are planned for June 9 in Bowling Green and Paducah, June 11 in Kenton County and June 18 in Hazard.

State Rep. Tom Burch, Lt. Gov. Steve Henry and Robin Zapp of the Jefferson County Protection and Permanency staff all spoke at the Louisville event.

Burch, who sponsored the Safe Infants Act, said it took a long time to pass, but if it saved even one life it would be worth the effort. The House and Senate both approved the legislation in 2001 but failed to agree on a final version. It became law in 2002.



Rep. Tom Burch, sponsor of the Safe Infants Act, addresses the media at a recent briefing on the new law.

The law assures parents they won't be pursued, "and the child

in most cases will get a happy home out of it," Burch said.



Robin Zapp of the Jefferson County Protection and Permanency office spoke to the media at the Louisville Safe Infants Act briefing.

Henry said that Burch, D-Louisville, has repeatedly shown leadership "where children are at risk in our state." Henry said the Safe Infants Act "gives our young mothers a real opportunity at a time that they're at a real crisis in their lives."

Zapp said the Cabinet "is very excited about this law, because for the first time it provides a safe alternative to desperate parents."

The law made it legal for parents and others to leave a baby up to 72 hours after birth at any hospital, with emergency medical service (EMS) personnel or with any firefighter or police officer

They will not be identified or prosecuted unless an abandoned infant shows signs of abuse or neglect..

Legally abandoned children receive a medical evaluation at a hospital and are then placed with

foster families that have agreed to adopt them.

After 30 days, if birth parents have not reasserted their rights, adoption proceedings can begin.

After the law passed, it took nearly a year to develop procedures and print and distribute the forms and other materials necessary for proper implementation of the law's requirements.

A parent who abandons a child will receive one pamphlet spelling out her legal rights and another containing advice for keeping herself healthy. Tom Taylor, coordinator for the Kentucky EMS for Children Project, said at the Louisville event that some young mothers may badly need the medical advice.

"Oftentimes these (abandoned) children are had by other children, and sometimes those folks don't have a good idea of how to keep themselves healthy after they've had a child," he said.

Most states have laws similar to Kentucky's Safe Infants Act. So far, three infants have been abandoned under the Kentucky law.

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Personnel Office offers amusement park discounts to state workers

By Anya Armes Weber
CFC Office of Communications

Staff planning a summer day at one of the area's amusement parks can save some money with discounts available from the Cabinet Personnel Office. Kings Island coupons, valid for the park's June 14-24 public employee recognition days, are good for \$24.75 tickets, plus the night before a day's visit free after 5 p.m. General admission is regularly \$42.99.



The Kings Island Fun Club card, valid for specific dates, will get staff tickets for \$27.75.

Six Flags Kentucky Kingdom VIP Cards will save employees and up to five others \$10 off the \$36.99 admission price throughout the park's season.

Stop by Patty Rice's desk to pick up the coupons.



**Congratulations
Kentucky
Graduates!**



**Best wishes for
continued
success from
the Kentucky
Cabinet for
Families and
Children**

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for Pipeline are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday. Call (502) 564-6180 or send information to Patricia Boler at patricia.boler@mail.state.ky.us.